

Mason, Stacy L - KEC-4

From: MtnSage@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2002 1:39 PM
To: slmason@bpa.gov
Subject: re: Fuhrman Ranch

RECEIVED BY BPA PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT LOG#: <u>mJDT-014</u> RECEIPT DATE: JUL 02 2002
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June 18, 2002

Stacy Mason
Bonneville Power Administration KEC- 4
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97028

RE: McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project

Dear Ms. Mason:

I understand you are in the final stages of determining the placement of the power lines at my family's ranch.... The Fuhrman Ranch on Hwy 14 just east of John Day Dam. There is such a deep family history of the farm its seems impossible to me that it may "no longer be" a part of our large family. I appreciate your time and effort in understanding the value and history of this home and what it means to so many.

My parents lived there while my grandparents were working in Oregon to gather the funds to maintain the family ranch.. This was in 1944 the year I was born so the ranch was my first home. I don't remember ever not being a part of the ranch in one form or the other in my lifetime. After my grandparents returned to the ranch my parents moved into town but every weekend was spent at the ranch helping my grandparents or just for gentle family time. Summer evenings sitting on the lawn watching the moon rise over the river. The quiet coo of the doves early in the mornings as we awoke to Grandma cooking pancakes on the wood stove by the dozens for the crowd. The lawn filled with kids in sleeping bags during the summer. My childhood was shared with many cousins and the ranch was the meeting place for all of us. Many years and many people have their heart in this small spot of land.

My Grandmother moved to Vancouver to live with her daughter Maxine many years after my Grandpa passed away. At that time my Dad, Bus Fuhrman had just retired from the County Road Dept. He bought a herd of registered Hereford cattle and spent many years raising the cows on the family homestead. My children absorbed the ranch as part of their childhood and their roots as well. Summers were spent with my parents at the ranch tending to cattle and raising a large garden. Many Christmas seasons were spent on the ranch molding memories that form wonderful childhood roots. My Dad bringing a quarter of a beef down to the house on horseback in the snow and ice... A Christmas tree brought to the house dragging behind the horse. All the giggling and secrecy as the kids huddled in corners to wrap their presents for each other and for their grandparents. The stories go on and

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on.

Now it is my grandchildren that are receiving the blessings of the large extended family and the reunions always held at the ranch. There is such strength and a sense of belonging that happens to everyone at the ranch. A place with a very strong history in the family and a place for the younger ones to feel their roots and hear the stories and share in the history of the family that is hung on the walls of the house.

Last Memorial weekend was the celebration of my 90 year old Mother's life. She passed away in April. My Mother and my Father are both children and grandchildren of pioneers in Klickitat County. Their newlywed home was on the hill just upriver a few miles from the ranch.

So you see it has been a huge part of the family for generations. When I consider the possibility that it may be torn down it and no longer available for all the generations it seems extremely difficult to consider.

I would be happy to meet you at the ranch Stacy to give you a tour and perhaps help you to understand the meaning of this historical value to Klickitat County as well as the emotional and historical value to our large family.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Carol (Fuhrman) Douglas
5025 15 Mile Road
The Dalles, Oregon 97058
541-296-3236

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